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# CANAL EVENT AXE SHOCK



Boats packed with traders and visitors line the waterways of Banbury for Canal Day 2015

**Hannah Somerville**  
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

THE biggest celebration in Banbury's calendar has been cancelled this year because of the long-awaited extension of Castle Quay Shopping Centre, known as CQ2.

What would have been the town's 14th Canal Day will not go ahead following a reluctant decision by Banbury Town Council's general services committee last week.

The event, which pulls in up to 12,000 people, was scheduled for Sunday, October 1, but if everything goes to plan swaths of the canal are set to be closed.

Banbury Town Council's general services committee heard on Tuesday that, assuming planning permission is granted, work could begin on the site in June. Committee chairman Colin Clarke said: "The difficulty is that most of the canal will be boarded off because of the development."

"We've also got a problem with a lack of parking spaces. The car park in Bolton Road had to be demolished and the first thing CQ2 will do is demolish the north car park."

"Somewhat reluctantly we put two and two together and decided the best thing would be to cancel the event. It wouldn't be Canal Day because we

would lose the canal."

Outline planning permission has already been granted for CQ2 and Cherwell District Council is expecting a 'reserve matters application', dealing with the details, shortly.

Owner Aberdeen Asset Management has taken four years to get plans together for the development, which is set to include a hotel, a 1,300-seat cinema and a supermarket.

If work starts in the summer by October towpaths on both sides of the canal, between General Foods Social Club and the Tom Rolt Bridge, will be fenced off.

Mr Clarke added: "It is frustrating because from Banbury Town Council's point of view Canal Day is the largest and most popular event that we organise."

Canal Day sees the town's historic canalside opened up to boaters, traders, crafters and visitors from across the UK.

Live entertainment from folk concerts to barrel organs, fairground attractions and food and drink stretch from Sovereign Wharf to the General Foods Garden.

Boat artist Louise Bunker, who is usually roped in by Tooley's for painting demonstrations, had been looking forward to her 11th event and reacted with dismay.

She said: "It's such a shame. It's very, very popular; year on year it has got better-attended and better-organised, and people love it."

"What's really good is the introduction over the last three years of the craft fair. They have some really interesting things."

Pat Thomas, who runs the boat trips, said: "We are extremely disappointed that Canal Day cannot be managed in some way."

"We understand the building has to happen and safety has to be a concern, but we work hard to get the volunteers, and with a year's break we don't know what might happen."

"It's a great disappointment to the whole town. Thousands upon thousands turn out; it's an astonishingly good event."

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## Contest to find the best pubs

OXFORDSHIRE's pubs can enter a competition to be crowned the best ale house in the county.

The National Pub & Bar Awards, the celebration which decides the best public house from each county of the United Kingdom, is back for 2017.

The search to find the best pub in each of the 94 counties has now begun and Oxfordshire pubs are invited to enter.

The venues can be run by a single-site operator, part of a leased or tenanted estate or part of a managed group.

Last year, The Thatch, in High Street, Thame, was crowned as Oxfordshire's best pub.

This year, the winners will enjoy a red carpet celebration at BAFTA on May 23.

At the awards night, the county winner will go up against 93 other pubs in the UK to be crowned the best in the country as well as other pubs in a regional competition.

The entry deadline for operators is March 17.

Pubs and bars can enter for free online at [nationalpubandbarawards.co.uk](http://nationalpubandbarawards.co.uk).

## New elections chief

AN INTERIM elections chief is set to be appointed by Cherwell District Council.

It has been proposed that Paul Sutton, currently chief finance officer, take over as returning officer and electoral registration officer from March 13.

His duties will include managing elections and the electoral roll – the list of people who are registered to vote.

The appointment comes after the departure of former chief executive Sue Smith. Ms Smith is due to be replaced as head of paid service by Ian Davies on an interim basis.

# MP: Journeys to hospital can take up to two hours

Public are being asked for journey times after services in maternity downgraded

Hannah Somerville  
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PATIENTS in North Oxfordshire are taking up to two hours to get to the John Radcliffe Hospital, according to a survey launched by an MP.

Victoria Prentis is asking the public for their journey times from Banbury to Oxford following the downgrade of maternity services at the Horton General Hospital in October.

According to health officials, the journey takes 30 to 38 minutes in an ambulance with its lights on.

But people driving themselves to the John Radcliffe have reported much longer times, with the longest recorded being two hours and 12 minutes including parking, since the survey was launched by Mrs Prentis, the MP for Banbury, last month.

Constituency support officer Zoe McLernon, who is collating responses, said: "I have had 240 responses so far. They are coming in every hour.

"The average journey time is



A busy car park at the John Radcliffe Hospital in January this year

roughly an hour-and-a-half. Some are one hour and some are two hours, and four people said it took them 60 minutes or more to park."

Jane Stratton, of Banbury, logged two hours 10 minutes and saw 28 cars queuing to park.

Catriona Reid reported visitors were also struggling to get to the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. She said: "Left Banbury for 6.50am for my 8.30am appointment and arrived with just five minutes to

spare. 95 minutes, with a baby."

The downgrade of maternity services at the Horton was prompted by problems recruiting enough doctors and means the unit is now midwife-led.

Expectant mothers considered to have 'high-risk' pregnancies have to give birth at the John Radcliffe and those who face complications in labour at the Horton need to be taken to Oxford by ambulance.

Although Oxford University Hos-

pitals NHS Foundation Trust said this would be temporary while it recruited doctors, the downgrade of Horton's maternity unit would become permanent due to plans by health officials to reform the NHS in Oxfordshire. These could also see some stroke and critical care services moved to Oxford.

Banbury solicitor Eddie Reeves raised concerns at a Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting this month.



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## Waitrose for Christmas?

THE new Waitrose store in Southam Road is due to open by Christmas, its head office has confirmed.

Last week the supermarket giant announced 700 job cuts as it looked to close under-performing stores up and down the country.

Up to 498 staff will face redundancy consultation and a further 180 will be lost over the next three years following a restructuring of management roles.

But the new 29,000 sq ft store in Banbury in front of the Mondelez International factory, which received planning permission near the end of 2015, will go ahead as planned.

Spokesman James Armstrong said: "At the moment the developers are finalising the last bits and pieces for it.

"But our aim is to open by Christmas if everything goes to plan."

Currently there are seven Waitrose branches in Oxfordshire, not including Banbury. The latest one to open was in Faringdon.



## Kickstart career at town jobs fair

HUNDREDS of career opportunities will be on offer tomorrow.

The Oxford Times Jobs Fair, organised by our sister paper, will see more than 25 employers looking for new recruits.

Companies signed up include electrical contractors Clarkson Evans, bus company Stagecoach, Molly Maid, Thames Valley Police, Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, security company G4S, Welcome Break and Armed Forces.

Others are care providers Day and Nightcare, Completely Care, Sanctuary Care, The Orders of St John Care Trust, nursery firm Bright Horizons and Response Organisation, which supports people with mental health problems.

Entry is free to the Jobs Fair, which runs from 10am to 3pm, in the main hall of the Town Hall.

Although this is the first Oxford Times Jobs Fair of 2017, there were two at the St Aldate's venue last year.

The first, in February, attracted 1,500 jobseekers.

## Volunteer call

VOLUNTEERS with a sense of adventure and a willingness to support local youngsters are being sought by the Banbury Sea Cadets.

The organisation, which has been helping children in the town to learn the ropes at sea since 1952, recently moved its headquarters to Space Studio Banbury.

Now it is looking for adults in the Banbury area to take up roles as unit assistance, fundraisers, instructors and trustees.

For more information email [info@banburyscacadets.org.uk](mailto:info@banburyscacadets.org.uk).

# 'Callous and sick' burglar jailed for nearly five years

Criminal burned pictures of sentimental value and also stole £1,500 in cash

Georgina Campbell  
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A JUDGE has lambasted a 'career criminal' over his sickening actions after he raided homes before burning sentimental items to cover up his tracks.

Drug addict Mark Lelli, of Glanville Gardens in Banbury, hung his head in shame as Judge Peter Ross jailed him for his 'campaign of burglaries.'

At Oxford Crown Court on Tuesday Judge Ross told Lelli: "People like you seem to think that people's homes are nothing more than bricks and mortar, the contents of which should be made available to criminals like you so you can get money to take drugs.

"Burglaries of people's homes are not just offences against property but are offences against people.

"Some of the property can never be recovered because you burned it.

"How callous is that? Burning in your garden photographs that you had stolen, that is sick."

Lelli, 35, burgled the home of David Vincent in Banbury on Sunday, December 11 last year, the court heard.

The three bedroom property is adapted for his wife's disability and Judge Ross told the court the family would have moved after the crime had it not been for the special adaptations.

The prosecution said on the night of December 11 the family had gone to bed at about 10pm and were only disturbed by their



His Hon Judge Ross

dog barking in the early hours of the morning.

Alongside almost £1,500 worth of cash, other items that were stolen include photographs of Mr Vincent's parents, which were then burned by Lelli at his home address along with other paper documents.

The family were able to track Lelli as he made his way throughout Banbury as a Find My iPhone app had been installed on an iPhone which was also stolen. Merril Hughes, prosecuting, added: "In addition to the £1,500 worth of items that were stolen from the home the family has spent a further £2,000 to get their home secured."

Lelli had three previous convictions for burglary.

Adam Williams, defending, said the string of burglaries had happened to fund Lelli's drug

habit after he was made homeless by his father.

He said: "He wished me to make clear to you that this was a difficult time in his life. This was to fund his drug taking.

"Since being clean in custody he is due to start a drugs course and now understands the effects of his drug use and the effects of his crimes on his victims.

"He expresses sincere remorse."

In January Lelli admitted one count of burglary and two counts of theft and also asked Judge Ross to take into consideration an additional 14 offences he had committed between Friday, October 21 and Tuesday, December 20 last year.

He was jailed for four years and nine months for burglary and two years for each count of theft to run concurrently.

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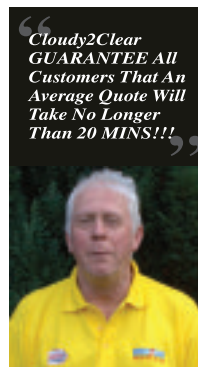
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## Charity thanks readers for all their support

A PIONEERING charity training life-changing assistance dogs has received £220,000 from a newspaper's Christmas appeal.

Over the festive season, readers of The Times donated in their thousands to the appeal, which raised money for Dogs for Good, in Blacklocks Hill, just outside Banbury.

The charity provides dogs to people with disabilities and autism to give them practical support, more independence and companionship.

Dogs can help those with physical disabilities in a range of day-to-day tasks, from dressing and loading the washing machine to navigating pedestrian crossings.

CEO Peter Gorbings said: "The impact of The Times' Christmas charity appeal will continue long after the last article was published.

"Times readers' donations will make a tremendous difference to our work. We're also delighted that so many people have contacted us directly to support our work in many ways, including legacy pledges, corporate and trust funding and an increased interest in volunteering."

In recent years, the charity has expanded its services and now offers activity and therapy dogs for schools and community organisations.

It also runs a service called 'PAWS' for the parents and carers of children with autism, to explore the helping potential that a pet dog might have in their family.

For more information on Dogs for Good, visit [dogsforgood.org](http://dogsforgood.org)

## Council's appeal for volunteer snow and ice wardens after recent wintry snap prompts a flurry of activity



The team at Betts butchers with Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon

# Butcher's team displays true grit

Hannah Somerville  
[hannah.somerville@nqo.com](mailto:hannah.somerville@nqo.com)

A BUTCHER'S firm in Banbury Old Town has become the first to respond to the call for volunteer snow wardens.

Staff at Steve Betts's shop in Church Lane have received safety equipment and training after the town council called for people to help keep pavements free of snow and ice.

The scheme is an extension of an initiative started by the council in 2013 that sees nearly 100 volunteers take responsibility for gritting roads and pavements.

Ice has already proved a problem in the town centre and businesses have been asked to get

involved by gritting pavements outside their premises.

Mr Betts said: "The safety of our customers is very important to us and we are pleased to be part of this scheme.

"Spreading a bit of grit will take little time or effort but the benefits could be very significant.

"If our actions prevent shoppers from falling, perhaps breaking bones or suffering head injuries, then it will be worthwhile."

About 80 wardens are already in place in Banbury but have rarely been called into action because of a succession of mild winters.

This year ice proved a problem throughout January and there have been flurries of snow across Oxfordshire in February

as temperatures drop to below freezing.

Cllr Kieron Mallon, leader of the Banbury Town Council, said: "I want to thank Mr Betts for his public-spirited actions.

"I'm sure many people will be grateful to him and his staff if we have snow or another spell of icy weather.

"Snow wardens are valued members of the community. They keep roads, pavements and footpaths safer for everyone throughout the winter, particularly elderly and vulnerable residents who cannot help themselves."

The council provides everything needed by volunteers for the task, as well as training.

Call Banbury Town Council on 01295 250340 for information.

## Farmers share Brexit views with minister

FARMERS in Banbury were visited by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to gauge opinions after Brexit.

Andrea Leadsom, MP for neighbouring South Northamptonshire, visited the area on February 9 to discuss the opportunities for British agriculture following Britain's exit from the EU. She spent part of the day with John and Julia Colegrave, the owners of Wykham Park Farm just south of Banbury. The farm invited around six other farmers from Oxfordshire and



John Colegrave and Andrea Leadsom

neighbouring counties to put their questions to the minister on the day.

Mrs Colegrave said: "It was very instructive. She sees huge potential for export if we can tap into the Chinese market; our food standards are the third highest in the world.

"She's also very keen on apprenticeships and making farming appear more 'sexy' and that was good to hear."

After the visit Mrs Leadsom met conservative candidates for the upcoming Oxfordshire County Council elections.



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Victoria Prentis MP gets to grips with a VR headset at Space Studio Banbury

# Students can walk in history with VR suite

Virtual reality facility opened by MP will be used by college for new learning experiences

**Hannah Somerville**  
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

STUDENTS at a Banbury college have stepped into a brave new world at the UK's first "Virtual Reality suite". The new permanent facility at Space Studio Banbury will offer students across the world new and interactive ways to learn using the latest technology. It was opened on Friday by Banbury MP Victoria Prentis, who met with staff and young people at the site in Ruskin Road for talks and demonstrations. She said: "I was really pleased to at-

tend the launch. It was very interesting to try out the technology and find out how it can be used in the school as a learning aid. "The VR suite will enable pupils to explore a range of historic locations and they will also be able to create their own interactive settings. "The growth of technology in our schools gives young people a chance to learn in a very different and unique way. I am sure the VR suite will be very popular." Virtual reality allows users to explore three-dimensional spaces using a head-mounted display. The device tracks a person's movement as they walk and gesture and two hand-held controllers make the technology interactive. The suite at Space Studio Banbury will be equipped with three room-size VR stations using portable headset HTC

Vive, which currently costs about £700. Campus principal Sylvia Thomas said: "From humanities to science and arts, languages to sports, VR offers new ways to learn. "We are very excited to see how pupils and staff will be able to use the new Virtual Reality suite to interact and create, enriching their school experience." The site is one of two in Banbury alongside Banbury Academy run by learning provider Aspirations, and students from both sites will be able to use the suite. Abi Turkmore, head of drama at Banbury Academy, added: "By using the Virtual Reality suite our drama pupils will be able to explore a range of historic theatres and locations in a new and exciting way, complementing the trips we make to see live theatre but also helping the pupils visualise and understand the original performance."

## Maternity unit downgrade referred on to minister

A DECISION taken last September to downgrade maternity services at the Horton General Hospital is being referred to the Secretary of State. Four months after Horton began running a midwife-led unit (MLU) service due to staffing issues members of Oxfordshire County

Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee voted unanimously to take the decision higher. It followed a previous failed motion in October in which members had voted five to three that enough evidence for the urgency of the move had been provided by Oxford University

Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Bringing forward a fresh motion yesterday, Deddington councillor Arash Fatemian said: "At the time OUH had adequate reasons for acting without consultation. That adequacy test no longer applies." All 12 members voted in favour of the move and the

Health Secretary will now be expected to rule on whether the change was permissible without public consultation. Since October 3 all expectant mothers in North Oxfordshire deemed 'high-risk' have had to travel to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford to give birth. The trust said they acknowledged the decision.

## The Great British Spring Clean

SCHOOLS, businesses and community groups in North Oxfordshire are being called on to stand up, roll up their sleeves and get behind the Great British Spring Clean. Banbury MP Victoria Prentis has urged people to get stuck in to the country-wide campaign to get people to clear up their communities. Mrs Prentis said: "Since coordinating the Parliamentary campaign Clean for The Queen last year litter has become something of an obsession.

"I was therefore really keen to help Keep Britain Tidy with this year's initiative the Great British Spring Clean. "We should do all we can to encourage people to go out and clean up their communities. The initiative also provides a useful opportunity to raise awareness of the problems litter causes. I am really hoping people get behind the campaign." The initiative runs from March 3 to March 5. Visit [greatbritishspringclean.org.uk](http://greatbritishspringclean.org.uk).



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# Fewer bobbies on beat as police cash cut bites

'True scale of crimes such as rape and child sex abuse is still being uncovered'

**Michael Race**  
mrace@nqo.com

FEWER bobbies will be on the beat as Thames Valley Police braces itself for funding cuts of more than £22m over the next three years.

A reduction of 59 police officer posts will be made and council tax paid to the force will increase by 1.99 per cent this year, after Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld presented a budget which was approved last week.

It comes as Thames Valley Police admitted in the budget report that the 'true scale' of crimes such as rape, child sexual abuse and domestic violence was still being 'uncovered'.

Oxford City Councillor Dee Sinclair, who represents the city on the police and crime panel, told the Oxford Mail 'very difficult and challenging times' lay ahead – despite TVP already dealing with £88.3m of cash cuts since 2011.

A total of £10.5m worth of savings will be made – with a draft budget for day to day police costs



**Bobbies on the beat**

for 2017/18 totalling £392m.

Mrs Sinclair added: "It's very difficult and challenging times when you look at the crime figures and fear of crime.

"It's been coming down [from Government] for a number of years."

The city councillor admitted it was the best that could be done due to reductions in cash from the Government.

Deputy PCC Matthew Barber previously said he thought there was no 'dire news' coming the force's way in terms of Home Office funding.

He added in general, although public finances may improve, he couldn't see public spending increasing 'directly in line'.

Mr Barber said: "There is always issues around the edges and there are things that we could spend

## WHAT THE CUTS ARE

Thames Valley Police needs to make at least £21.5m over the next three years, with £10.5m in 2017/18.

This is over and above the £87m of cash savings already removed from the budget in the last six years, which means over the nine year period – 2011/12 to 2019/2020 – in excess of £108m will have been taken out of the revenue budget.

The impact on police officer and staff numbers next year is a net reduction of 59 police officer posts and an increase of 22 police staff/PCSO posts.

more money on.

"I wouldn't say we wouldn't want more money for the police, but given the scale of cuts we have had, we haven't actually seen the destruction that many people have forecast in an awful lot of services."

Mrs Sinclair added Chief Constable Francis Habgood had been 'candid' in his comments on the cuts in suggesting a reduction of income would eventually have to mean fewer police officers.

Members of the public would still see PCSOs on the beat she said, but added police constables would be focused more on 'response work'. There are 4,200 police officers in the force who cannot be made redundant by law.

## Fire crews, police to pool resources in district project

FIREFIGHTERS will be trained to look out for victims of crime as a pilot project is expanded.

The scheme will also see Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) taught how to spot fire-related risks and give fire safety advice on the spot.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Thames Valley Police hope that by working together to pool their fire and crime information, they can offer an improved service.

They said that a six-month pilot scheme in Carterton has been such a success it is being expanded across the whole of West Oxfordshire.

Firefighters and PCSOs recently took part in a training exercise at Witney Fire Station to be able to offer home visits that will provide fire safety, home security, healthy living and crime prevention tips.

It means PCSOs will be able to spot fire-related risks and offer fire safety or public health advice on the spot – instead of referring people to the fire service to arrange a second visit.

Firefighters will be trained to look out for signs of when someone is vulnerable to crime and give advice on how to avoid becoming a victim of crime, such as doorstep crime.

Kerry Blair, pictured, group manager at Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: it was a 'fantastic example' of the collaborative work between the two authorities.

He added: "Home visits can cover anything from fire safety, home security safety and awareness of doorstep crime as well as health advice."



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# Eateries ready to come clean on hygiene scores

Owners support scheme to make displaying of ratings for food outlets compulsory

**Callum Keown**  
ckeown@nqo.com

RESTAURANT owners in Oxfordshire have backed plans to make displaying food hygiene ratings compulsory as figures reveal more than 5,400 businesses in the county could face losing customers.

A law making food outlets show their rating in the window could be enforced within two years and a survey from business service company NFU Mutual revealed that scores of three or less were turning people away.

Figures revealed that 14.7 per cent of restaurants in Oxford – 1,281 – were rated three or lower, a figure which puts it in the bottom third nationwide. But city restaurateurs backed the plans and hoped it would improve standards.

Smart Fish and Chips in Blackbird Leys recently scored a five-star rating after slipping to a four pending building repairs. Owner Levent Koc said displaying the rating created trust between restaurateurs and their customers.



Levent Koc is the owner of Smart Fish & Chips in Blackbird Leys. He has been awarded five stars for hygiene

He said: "The rating is vital but having it displayed in the window is even more important – people need to know the hygiene level."

"We have created a trust with our customers over the years and they are confident in us and in our food."

"The standards are high in Oxford but you do see a few two and three stars around which is surprising – and there aren't many

fish and chip shops with five." He added: "A new law could help improve things, but businesses need to welcome the council in and work with them to up their standards."

It is currently law in Wales where businesses face a fine of up to £200 if they don't display the rating in a 'conspicuous' place.

West Oxfordshire District Council performed the best in the

county, with 6.5 per cent of restaurants with three or lower, followed by Cherwell with 10.3 and South Oxfordshire with 14.3. Vale of White Horse District Council fared worst with 15.66 per cent.

Collectively more than 5,400 restaurants in Oxfordshire currently have a rating of three or below.

A Government consultation on the new legislation is due to take place this year.

## Fog detector to be installed on road after crash

A FOG sensor will be installed on the M40 two years after a 33-vehicle crash killed a man and left dozens injured.

Highways England said yesterday it would release more details on when it would be put in place in the coming weeks.

On February 14, 2015 Robert Pilott, 64, was killed and many more were seriously injured in the collision on the major trunk road near Bicester.

Police said at the time that fog had played a 'major part' in the crash and that it had been the single largest collision the force had dealt with for many years, involving more than 50 motorists and passengers.

Highways England spokesman Jack Tappin said: "Driver safety is a top priority for Highways England across all of our roads."

"We are committed to installing a new fog sensor on the M40 near junction 9, which we believe will improve driver safety."

"We are currently in the final stages of agreeing this work and will look to deliver it soon."

An inquest into the death of Mr Pilott in September 2015 heard how there had been no fog sensor at that road and coroner Darren Salter promised to write to Highways England about the issue.

Fog was also a factor after an Oxford Bus Company coach overturned on the M40 near Thame in December.

The only fog detector on the M40 currently in use is at junction 15 near Warwick.

The devices alert highway staff to fog, enabling them to trigger electronic warning signs.



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# 'Super Council' plan sparks war of words

**Matt Oliver**  
moliver@nqo.com

A WAR of words has erupted over plans for a 'Super Council', with rival authorities ramping up their attacks as they turn on one another.

In an extraordinary exchange, Oxfordshire County Council accused its district counterparts of spreading 'misleading scare stories' on social media.

Since last month, it has been campaigning for the six biggest authorities in the county to be scrapped and replaced with a single organisation, which it argues would save £20m a year and make services better.

But in a series of broadsides, city council leader Bob Price hit out at the super council vision spearheaded by county council leader Ian Hudspeth, branding it 'a massive threat' that would put community facilities and local democracy at risk across Oxfordshire.

It comes as a taxpayer-funded campaign against the plan was launched last night by Oxford City Council, with a petition on website change.org against the project, which it says will see people in the city lose control of their own affairs.

Mr Price said: "Oxfordshire County Council has cut and cut and cut."

"They have closed homeless shelters by cutting grants, they have left communities isolated by cutting bus subsidies, they have devastated families by cutting children's centres, and they have left our roads riddled with potholes and gridlock."

"And now, with nothing left to cut, and in an act of sheer desperation they are coming after Oxford City Council, your money and your city."

Meanwhile, Cherwell District

**BROADSIDE:**  
Bob Price and  
Ian Hudspeth



## City launches petition against bid for a single authority as county accuses its district rivals of scaremongering

Council said the county council was 'closing children's centres [and] impacting on families' in a Twitter post.

A county council spokesman said: "Like many other councils that run social services, Oxfordshire County Council has had to make some difficult decisions as a result of reducing government funding and rising demand for children's and adult social care."

"It is worrying that Cherwell seems to have little concept of this national situation."

Running six councils was 'wasteful and inefficient' it added, and £400,000 per week of savings could instead go towards protecting services.

It came as emails leaked to the *Banbury Cake* also revealed council bosses were putting a devolution bid to claw back powers from Westminster on ice.

Peter Thompson, chairman of Oxford Civic Society, accused local authorities of presiding over 'a shambles' that could see the county miss out on hundreds of millions of pounds.

He said: "There is a desperate need for councils in Oxfordshire to work together more closely but the unitary council proposals do not have widespread support and now people seem to be jumping ship from the devolution bid."

"This is going to look like a complete shambles to the Government. And I am sure they will also be frustrated because they have clearly recognised the economic potential of Oxford but it now risks not being delivered because of petty squabbling between local authorities here."

"It is very unfortunate."

In an exchange seen by the *Banbury Cake*, local authority leaders poured cold water over proposals

to seek hundreds of millions of pounds in funding from the Government. Responding to an email from Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) chief executive Nigel Tipple, Mr Hudspeth claimed key figures were now 'casting doubt' over the prospect of future devolution deals.

He referred to comments by Local Government Association chairman Lord Porter, who this month said devolution was 'dead'.

Lord Porter said this was because warring councils in England had been offered opportunities by the Government but instead had thrown them 'back in their face'.

Mr Hudspeth suggested delaying 'any expenditure' on the county's bid until the matter was clear.

He was supported by Matthew Barber, leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, who added: "No point committing expenditure until we know for sure."

But last night OxLEP boss Mr Tipple said he believed work on the devolution proposals should still continue, adding: "There is definitely merit in working together across the county for improvements to infrastructure and to deliver housing."

"Ian and Matthew have now said they don't think things should go ahead ... but what I have said is I think there is merit in continuing to develop the devolution proposals irrespective of any governance discussions happening."

"That would be my advice to them. I have not heard back from the other council leaders yet."

Speaking last night, Mr Hudspeth said: "Lord Porter was clear in his statements and I would not want to waste taxpayers' money [on a devolution bid] if we do not have any clarity."

## Audition for role in a romantic tale

ASPIRING actors are invited to open auditions for a July 2017 production of Abi Morgan's *Lovesong* with the Banbury Cross Players.

The play tells the story of a couple from two different points in their lives, as young lovers and worldly companions looking back on their relationship.

Two men and two women, aged in their 60s and 70s and in their mid-20s to late 30s, are being sought for the cast of four.

A read-through will take place on Tuesday, February 21 at The Mill Arts Centre from 7.30pm. Auditions will take place at the same time and venue on Thursday, March 16.

## See check mates

KEEN chess players in the Banbury area are being called on to help start up a weekly games club at Naomi's Cafe in Bridge Street.

The arts venue is looking for anyone keen to practice their mental strategy with opponents from the local area on Wednesday nights from 7pm to 10pm.

Classic games players up for a round of dominoes, backgammon or cards are also invited.

Anyone interested in getting involved is asked to call the cafe on 01295 259795.

## Recycle your love

LOVEBIRDS in Banbury are being encouraged to correctly dispose of any flowers, food waste and cards from their Valentine's Day celebrations this week.

Cherwell District Council has reminded constituents that once past their best, flowers can be placed in the brown garden and food waste bins to be turned into compost.

Leftovers and peelings from romantic meals should be disposed of in the brown bins and any Valentine's cards, without glitter or adornments such as ribbons, can be recycled using the blue bins.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

### What are the councils arguing about?

How many councils there should be. Oxfordshire County Council says having six main authorities – four districts, the city council and itself – is wasteful. Instead, it says we should replace them all with a 'super council', which would run everything save £20m a year. Oxford City Council is strongly opposed to this idea. It says people in the city would lose their voice on important issues like planning and housing, because they would be regularly outvoted by more rural areas on the new authority. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district

councils are supporting the county council's proposal, while West Oxfordshire and Cherwell district councils have sided against them.

### What is the devolution bid?

This is a separate bid that has been drawn up by all of the councils together to claw back powers and extra cash from Westminster. It would see the creation of an election mayor, who would lead a combined authority made up of all the existing councils. The mayor would have devolved powers over transport and housing budgets and the ability to borrow large sums of money.

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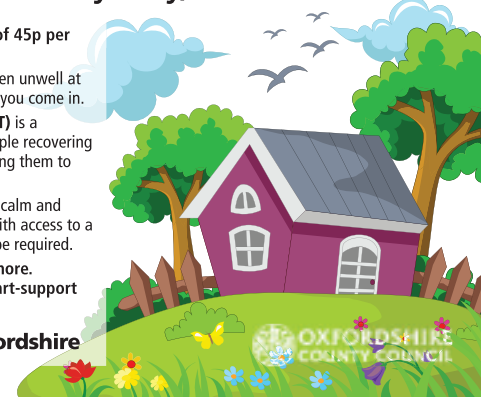
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# Judge raps Parliament in his final summing up

After 50 years of legal service, grandfather says new laws too complicated

**Annabal Bagdi**  
abagdi@nqo.com

POLITICIANS and peers responsible for drafting the laws of the land are not doing their job properly, according to a retiring senior judge.

Judge Charles Harris QC claimed Parliament is churning out complex and often "unnecessary" laws instead of concentrating on making current legislation simpler.

The "torrent" of legislation has forced the legal system to become incomprehensible to both lawyers and the public, the civil judge revealed.

His remarks come as judges, barristers and court staff united on Friday to bid farewell to the grandfather-of-seven after 50 years of service in the legal profession.

Speaking to the *Oxford Mail* from his Oxford County Court chambers, Judge Harris said: "The law should be capable of being understood by the people that it applies to. Now, Parliament passes laws which people can't understand."

The father-of-three said there is



Judge Charles Harris QC's valediction ceremony at Oxford Crown Court

"far too much legislation" governing the UK, claiming the last three prime ministers produced an average of 2,629 laws per year.

Consumer credit laws, data protection, tax and criminal sentencing have become complicated, and it is now too expensive for the public to take legal action just to establish their rights, he said.

Judge Harris, who lives in North Oxfordshire with wife Carol, was

born in Sedgley, West Midlands. He became a QC in 1989, a Recorder in 1990 and became a circuit judge based in Oxford in 1993.

He was appointed the designated civil judge for Oxford in 2001, enjoyed a five-year stint on the Parole Board and served on the Crown Court Rule Committee from 1997 until 2005.

He was a member of the Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges

from 2002, chaired the Civil Committee for two years and became president of the council in 2010.

The 72-year-old said it was a "great shame" criticism had been thrown at judges dealing with the Brexit process – which the Supreme Court ruled could not begin until voted on by Parliament.

Revealing he wanted the UK to leave the European Union, the judge added: "Parliament does not do its job. A great deal of legislation comes from European regulations which are not properly investigated by Parliament."

"Our own laws should be made by the British Parliament and interpreted by our courts – which are some of the best in the world."

"Judges bend over backwards not to be political. They should not be criticised. All they are doing is interpreting the law and setting out what it says and that's a job of immense difficulty."

The judge praised the "charming" staff at the Oxford court, who he said often get "poached" by law firms and other courts which offer higher pay.

He added: "It's a constant battle to keep good staff."

But he is now looking forward to mountaineering, skiing, architecture and reading after years indulging in the "daily combat" of court.

## Email scam alert

POLICE have issued a warning over an email scam which may be sent to people living in Oxfordshire.

Residents are advised to delete emails entitled 'paedophile alert in your area' or 'sex offender map of your area' alleging to be from Neighbourhood Watch.

The force says a link included in the emails is fraudulent and should not be clicked.

Those who receive the emails are asked to report it to Action Fraud which, since being launched in 2012, is used to centrally compile all reports of fraud in the country.

For more visit [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk)

## Blame for Brexit

A LEADING Labour MP told supporters in Banbury that Brexit 'had been coming for years'.

Keir Starmer, Shadow Secretary of State for Exiting the EU, blamed the referendum result on 'political failures on all sides' that led to long-felt unrest.

He spoke at a Labour party fundraiser at The Cornhill Centre on Friday.



## Join spring clean

LITTER pickers will be out in force for OxClean's annual spring clean.

Across the county residents will be doing their bit to clean up their villages and towns in a community effort to keep the streets, rivers and countryside clean.

It will be the 10th annual Spring Clean OxClean has run and will take place on Friday 3, Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 March.

For more information or to volunteer visit [oxclean.org.uk/spring-clean/](http://oxclean.org.uk/spring-clean/)

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# Black lives shine brilliantly as they reach for the moon

**MOONLIGHT (15, 111 mins) Drama/Romance.** Mahershala Ali, Naomie Harris, Janelle Monae, Patrick Decile, Alex Hibbert, Ashton Sanders, Trevante Rhodes, Jharrel Jerome, Andre Holland. Director: Barry Jenkins.

BASED on the stage play *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue* by Tarell Alvin McCraney, writer-director Barry Jenkins' tender coming-of-age drama finds hope, compassion and salvation in the darkest places.

*Moonlight* glimpses abuse, regret and desire from the perspective of an African American boy struggling to come to terms with his sexuality against a backdrop of crime and punishment in Miami, Florida.

Neatly bookmarked into three chapters which capture the central character at different points in his life, it is an extraordinary film of naked emotion, broken dreams and deep longing that upends stereotypes and speaks loudest in agonising silences between tortured characters.

Naomie Harris scorches every frame as a drug-addicted mother, whose lip-curling cruelty propels her wounded son into the surrogate care of her own dealer.

Twelve-year-old Chiron (Alex Hibbert) is one of the smallest boys in his year and an obvious target for bullies.

Any beatings pale next to the pain inflicted by his mother Paula (Harris), who is a slave to her drug habit.

Her neglect drives Chiron into the arms of dealer Juan (Mahershala Ali) and his girlfriend Teresa (Janelle Monae), who try to provide a stable home environment as he contends with growing pains.

As Chiron grows into an awkward 16-year-old (now played by Ashton Sanders), the lad recognises his attraction to his best friend Kevin (Jharrel Jerome).

Many years later, Chiron (now played by Trevante Rhodes), drives to the diner where Kevin (now played by Andre Holland) waits tables in order to purge the poison.

"For a long time, I tried not to remember," confesses Chiron to the only man he ever loved.

*Moonlight* is a wondrous collaboration between a director at the height of his powers and a cast willing to lay themselves emotionally bare for their art.

**HIDDEN FIGURES (PG, 127 mins) Drama/Romance/Comedy.** Taraji P Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kevin Costner, Kirsten Dunst, Jim Parsons, Mahershala Ali, Ken Strunk. Director: Theodore Melfi.

BASED on an inspirational true story, *Hidden Figures* is a crowd-pleasing drama, which celebrates three brilliant African-American women, who lit the touch paper on Nasa's 1960s space race.

Laughter and tears abound, flecked with romance and bravura recreations of key events from an era when men and women of science were literally shooting for the moon as the rest of the world watched in awe.

Katherine Johnson (Henson) and fellow mathematicians Mary Jackson (Janelle Monae) and Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) work in the segregated West Computing Group in Hampton, Virginia.

They are part of Nasa's concerted effort to put a man into space before the Soviets.



Mahershala Ali and Alex Hibbert star in *Moonlight*

The successful launch of the Korabl-Sputnik-4 spacecraft puts America on the back foot.

Al Harrison (Kevin Costner), director of the Space Task Group, desperately needs a mathematician in his team to check computations.

Supervisor Vivian Mitchell (Kirsten Dunst) selects Katherine, who is the first African American to work with Al's crack team.

She, Mary and Dorothy strive for greatness while handsome military officer Jim Johnson (Mahershala Ali) prepares to woo one of the women.

*Hidden Figures* richly deserves its three Oscar nominations, including a nod for Best Picture.

## Cake Bookworm

*The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne is published in hardback by Doubleday, priced £16.99 (ebook £9.99).

Boyne's latest foray into the story of Ireland is much funnier but no less hard-hitting in its social backdrop than his previous novels, including *A History Of Loneliness*. It centres on the lifelong trials and tribulations of Cyril Avery, a boy born in 1945 out of wedlock to an Irish mother, who is disgraced by the church and those around her. Adopted by a pair of middle-class Dublin eccentrics, he strikes up a friendship with a spoilt, risky character, Julian Woodbead. That friendship provides the link through much of Cyril's life, told in the first person, in which he comes to terms with being gay in a country, that, until recently scorned homosexuality, his ill-fated relationships, the savagery of the church, the scourge of Aids and other real events which provide a

backdrop to the story. A great read. *A Gentleman In Moscow* by Amor Towles is published in hardback by Hutchinson, priced £12.99 (ebook £8.99).

Described as *The Grand Budapest Hotel* meets *War And Peace*, *A Gentleman In Moscow* is quite a novel to behold. Towles' use of language is an absolute pleasure to read and you can't help but savour every last word. The story opens a couple of years after the Russian Revolution, during a time of ferocious upheaval. A devilishly good-looking count, Alexander Rostov has been summoned before an emergency committee and accused of penning a counter revolutionary poem. For the next several years, under hotel arrest, he forms relationships with employees, visitors and a young girl whom he becomes a guardian for. Almost overly wordy at points, Towles spends a lot of time on detailed descriptions of Rostov and his

various encounters, but you can't help but enjoy the ride.

*The Keeper Of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan is published in hardback by Two Roads, priced £16.99 (ebook £7.99).

An air of mystery weaves through *The Keeper Of Lost Things*, but this is certainly not another of the crime thrillers that have so dominated women's fiction in recent years. Instead, Ruth Hogan's delightful debut novel harks back to more traditional chick-lit ilk – though that's not to say the plot and characters are in any way clichéd. Yes, there's a 30-something woman, Laura, who's a little lost, been unlucky in love and ready for a life change at the centre of it all. Romance is just part of the journey of discovery Laura finds herself on, after taking a job as assistant to ageing writer Anthony Peardeew, who has spent his life collecting lost objects, with the hope of one day returning them all to their owners.

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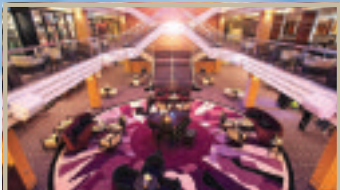
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# Oxfordshire Listings

## Events

### THURSDAY

**Build a Bird Box:** Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Take home a handmade bird box and help encourage more wildlife into your garden. All tools provided. Booking essential. 10.30am. £15 per box. 01865 407792.

**Dickens Workshops:** Museum of Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. Creation Theatre. Over three hours, get to grips with two classic books by Charles Dickens and create a short performance for family and friends to watch. Age eight to 12. Two workshop sessions available: 10am-1pm and 2-5pm. 10am. £15 per child. 01865 252334.

**February half-term at Cogges:** Cogges Manor Farm, Church Lane, Witney. Opening mornings only, Cogges will be running sessions of craft, storytelling and cooking, as well as the guided winter welly walk. Today – A Squash and a Squeeze storytelling, with art stations in the dining room and puppet making. Storytelling will be at 11am and 12pm. Free, donations for materials welcome. 01993 772602.

**Nature Explorer Trail:** Upton House and Gardens, Banbury. Bring your family this half-term and discover things which wriggle, crawl, dig and fly around Upton. 11am. £2.50 per trail, normal admission price apply. 01295 671122.

**Out in Oxford – Is Gender Identity a Choice?:** Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford. Community group, Philosophy in Pubs, takes over the galleries for the night to explore the difference and relationship between gender and sex. 7pm. Free but booking essential. 01865 270927.

### FRIDAY

**Community Weekend at Braziers Park:** Braziers Park, Braziers Lane, Nr Ipsden, Wallingford. A weekend of discussions, activities, games, walks and talks. Residential weekend, day visitors also welcome. Saturday night bonfire. 4pm. £70-£220 for residential, income related. 01491 680221.

**Junior Basic Bike Maintenance Course:** Buttercross Scout Hut, 32b Marlborough Lane, Witney. A four-hour course for children aged eight to 14. Learn how to change wheels, replace inner tubes, patch punctures and adjust brakes. 10am. £40.

**Out in Oxford – Party at the Pitt:** Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford. Community groups, curators, performers and artists come together to launch the University of Oxford's first LGBTQ+ cross-museums trail 'Out in Oxford'. Live performances, pop-up exhibitions, micro-talks and interactive activities. Free but booking essential. 7pm. 01865 270927.

### SATURDAY

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:** Near the village hall, Fringford. A leisurely five-mile walk near Fringford – the area made famous by Flora Thompson. 10am. Free. 07527 758788.

**Half Term Steamday:** Didcot Railway Centre, Entry through Didcot Parkway railway station, Didcot. Enjoy rides in vintage trains. 10.30am. £10 adult, £8 child. 01235 817200.

**Jumble Sale:** Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, Besselsleigh Road, Wootton. 2pm. 50p entry.

**Modernity in Middle-Earth – The Work of J.R.R. Tolkien:** Braziers Park, Braziers Lane Nr Ipsden, Wallingford. A talk by Patrick Curry. Booking is essential at braziers.org.uk Suggested donation £5. Community supper can also be booked at 6.30pm, priced at £15, £8 or £6 depending on income. Late evening campfire social afterwards – bring your

own drink. 7pm. 01491 680221.

**Open Day at Banbury Museum:** Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. A mid-winter programme of talks, gallery tours, workshops and fun. 10.30am. Free.

**Songwriting Workshop – Climb That Tree:** Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Have a go at making music and having a sing-along with singer-songwriter David Gibb. For children aged six to 11. 11am. £6 per child. 01865 407792.

**Thame Dollshouse & Miniatures**

**Fair:** Thame Leisure Centre, Oxford Road, Thame. 10am. Adults £3.50, children £1.50. 07738 009795.

**Walk (Fieldpaths):** Church, Steeple Barton. SP448249 six miles. This is the annual snowdrop walk, some walking on minor roads. Bring refreshments for en route break. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 07799 001899.

### SUNDAY

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:**

Park near the church, Stratton Audley. A moderately difficult 11-mile walk starting from Stratton Audley via Fringford and Hethe. Please bring a picnic lunch. 10am. Free. 07939 826412.

**Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers:**

Meet at the car park, Great Tew. A leisurely four-mile ramble via Little Tew. 2pm. Free. 07730 463432.

**Half-Term Steamday:** Didcot Railway Centre, Entry through Didcot Parkway railway station, Didcot. Enjoy rides in vintage trains. 10.30am. £10 adult, £8 child. 01235 817200.

**Ramblers walk:** Car park at rear of the King & Queen PH, Wheatley. Seven-mile walk via Forest Hill and Shotover. 10am. 01865 423555.

### MONDAY

**The Turbulent Lifetime of Thomas Vachell:**

Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive, Abingdon. Thomas Vachell was the heir of an old Reading gentry family. The Vale Branch of Berkshire Family History Society. 7.15pm. Free to members, a donation from non-members. 07903 401188.

**Women's Self Defence and Fitness Class:** The Pavilion, Roosevelt Road,

Long Hanborough. Ages from 13 upwards welcome. 8pm. £5. 07834 022463.

### TUESDAY

**Card Making:** No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. £15 and includes a card making starter kit. After tonight Helen will be running a monthly evening card club on the third Tues of the month for £5 a time. 7pm. 01235 511550.

**Floristry – spring flowers:** No Two Things, 120 Broadway, Didcot. 7pm. £38. 01235 511550.

**New Moon Walk:** Earth Trust, Little Wittenham. Glory in the night sky on a guided walk to Little Wittenham Wood, lit by the monthly occurring new moon. Booking essential. 7pm. £5 adult; £2 child. 01865 407792.

**Painting Demonstration by Soraya French:**

Centre 70, Kilngrove off Goldsmiths Lane, Wallingford. Demonstration in painting colourful scenes in acrylic inks. 7.30pm. Free. 01491 681400.

**Windrush Flower Club Monthly Demonstration:** Corn Exchange, Market Square, Witney. Demonstration by Sally Hardy entitled 'Anything Goes'. 7.15pm. £5 visitors, first visit free. 01993 774119.

### WEDNESDAY

**Banbury & District Diabetes UK Group – First Meeting:**

Hanwells Fields Community Centre, Rotary Way, Banbury. Banbury & District Diabetes group would like to invite you to their first meeting, there will be a Q&A session with specialists from the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism.

**To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at [thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events](http://thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events)**

**Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.**

7.45pm. Free. 07083 130543.

**Cotswold Decorative & Fine Arts Society Special Interest Day:** Bradwell Village Hall, Bradwell Village, Burford. A day exploring "18th Century English Porcelain" by Anton Gabszewicz. 10.15am. Non-members £33; incl lunch. Booking essential.

**Free Come And Sing Harmony Course:** Appleton Village Hall, Oakesmere. Second of free evening course in a cappella harmony singing. See [harmonyinspires.org](http://harmonyinspires.org) or email [sing@harmonyinspires.org](mailto:sing@harmonyinspires.org). 7.30pm. Free. 07557 519481.

**LGBT+ identity, rights, pride and community:** John Henry Brookes Building, Oxford Brookes University, Headington. For LGBT History Month join in a panel conversation on LGBT+ identity, rights, pride and community. We will be looking at ways of belonging and creating a sense of community, as well as reflecting on responses to global events of violence and hate crime, actions from the UK government and the changing European context. 6pm. Free.

**The Subtle Art and Exact Science of Pruning:** High Street Methodist Church, High Street, Witney. Witney Horticultural Society invites you to an evening with Tim Walker, retired director of Oxford Botanic Gardens, who will be giving an illustrated talk on pruning. 7.30pm. £3 for visitors, £1 for members includes coffee/tea. 01993 702444.

## Music

### THURSDAY

**The Oxford Golf Club, Hill Top Road, Oxford:** Big Band Evening featuring The Velvet Tones, Sisters of Swing and special guests 6 plus 1. Free. 8pm. 01865 242158.

**The Theatre Chipping Norton, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Budapest Cafe Orchestra. 7.45pm. £15. 01608 642350.

**The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford:** Cameron Pierre. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz guitarist accompanied by The Spin Trio. 8.30pm. £10, £8 (conc), £6 (student).

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Deadbeat Apostles, Country For Old Men, Dan McKean. Country/folk. 6.30pm. £7.

**Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford:** Fisherman's Friends. Sea shanties and songs of the sea. 7pm. £18-£22.50.

**O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Union J. X Factor boyband. 7.30pm. £20, £50 (VIP), £75 (Super VIP).

**The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford:** Mary Bendy Trio, Order #227, The Strays, Dawn Raisers, Tom Dalby. Goth rock & punk. 7pm. £7.

**The Cock Inn, Combe:** Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8-11pm. Free.

### FRIDAY

**Great Western Staff Association Club, Station Road, Didcot:** Howlin' Taildraggers. Didcot Red Hot Blues Night. £6 on the door. 8.30pm. 07788 645989.

**Duke Of Monmouth, Abingdon Road, Oxford:** The Summits. Male duo perform a grand opening special with covers from 60s to present. Free. 7pm. 01865 240294.

**Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College, Oxford:** Elizabeth Kenny (lute): A Shakespeare Miscellany. Pre-concert talk at 6.45pm. Gallery £25, stalls £17, students £17/£10. 7.30pm. 01865 286660.

**The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford:** Oxford Folk Club open night. £2. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

**Wine Vaults Banbury, Parsons Street, Banbury:** Devastation. Male rock and pop covers duo. Free. 9.30pm. 01295 261281.

**The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Groak, Drore, Scumbag. Punk/metal. 8pm.

**The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford:** Hidden Charms, Bay Rays. Psychedelic pop. 7pm. £7.

**The Mad Hatter, 43 Ifley Road, Oxford:** The Mighty Redox. All original psycho-eclectic rock band. 8pm. Free.

**The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford:** The Mirror Trap. Alt-rockers on UK tour. 8pm.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Mr B – The Gentleman Rhymer. Chap-hop, straight out of Surrey. 7pm. £11.

**O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Nearly Noel Gallagher's High Flyin' Birdz. Tribute to Noel Gallagher. 6.30pm. £10.

### SATURDAY

**Bicester Services Club, Sheep Street, Bicester:** The Summits. Male covers duo. 5pm. 01869 245367.

**The Queen's College, High Street, Oxford:** The Eglesfield Musical Society Saturday Recital Series. Piano recital, David Palmer. 1.30pm. 01865 279120.

**The Windrush Club, 106 High Street, Witney:** Marley Motown. 9pm. 01993 702207.

**Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford:** Haydn's Creation. Oxford Orpheus Chorus and Orchestra, Conductor Robert Dean present their annual charity choral concert. £10/£7.50 (concessions). 7.30pm. 01865 250440.

**O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford:** 1000 Chains, My Diablo, Trauma UK, A Nightmare Upon Us. Hard rock and heavy metal. 7pm. £7.

**Fusion Arts, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street, Oxford:** Holly Redford Jones. 7-10pm. £5 advance, £7 door.

### SUNDAY

**Wolfson College, Linton Road, Oxford:** Fournier Trio Recital. The Complete Beethoven Piano Trios. £15; £12 (concessions); £5 (students). 5pm. 01865 274100.

**Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown:** Julian Stringle/Dom Ashworth Trio. Clarinet/sax, guitar and bass. One of the UK's finest clarinetists and sax players meets a world class guitarist. 6.30-9pm. Free.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Silk Road, Her Despair, 13 Burning, Chaos Theory, Molotov Sexbomb. Rock and metal battle of the bands. 7pm. £5.

### MONDAY

**The Queen's College, High Street, Oxford:** The Eglesfield Musical Society Saturday Recital Series. Vocal recital with piano accompaniment. Ellie Bray (The Queen's College). Admission is free with a retiring collection. 1.30pm. 01865 279120.

### TUESDAY

**The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford:** Oxford Improvisers. New and improvised music. £9, £6.

7.45pm. 01865 263990.

**The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford:** Alpines, Tusks, Orchid. Electro-pop. 7pm. £7 (adv).

### WEDNESDAY

**The Talk House, Wheatley Road, Stanton St John:** Mishka Adams with Tim Dawes, Nait Allen, Tim Laphorn. Folk/Brazilian/jazz. 8.30-11pm. Free.

**The Queen's College, Chapel, High Street, Oxford:** Organ Recital Series. James Lancelot. Admission is free with a retiring collection. 1.10pm. 01865 279125.

**The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford:** Neon Waltz. Indie rock. 7pm. £6 (adv).

## Theatre

**Andrew Wiles Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford:** Until Mar 5, 1984. Creation Theatre. 7.30pm. £18-£23. 01865 766266.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Feb 18, Sol Bernstein, Paul F Taylor, Clint Edwards and Carly Smallman. Glee comedy. 7.45pm. £15.95.

**Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Feb 16 and 18, *The Optimists*. New Writing Festival. 9.30pm. £5. Feb 17 and 18, *Narkissos*. New Writing Festival. 7.30pm. £5. Feb 17 and 18, *Proper Conduct*. New Writing Festival. 9.30pm. £5. 01865 305305.

**The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford:** Feb 16, *Dare Devil Rides To Jarama*. 7.30pm. £12, £10. Feb 18, *Workshy*. 8pm. £12, £10. Feb 21, *Scratch Night*. 7.30pm. £5. 01865 263990.

**Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Until Feb 18, *Pink Mist*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. Feb 21-25, *Silver Lining*. New comedy by Sandi Toksvig. 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. Feb 28-Mar 4, *The Winter's Tale*. 7.30pm. £11.50-£28. 01865 305305.

**New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:** Feb 16, *La Boheme*. 7.30pm. £20.40-£44.40 plus £4 transaction fee. Feb 17, *Nabucco*. 7.30pm. £20.40-£44.40 plus £4 transaction fee. Feb 18, *Aida*. 7.30pm. £20.40-£44.40 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

**The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown:** Feb 16, *Mark Thomas: The Red Shed*. 7pm. £12. 01865 319450.

**Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Feb 17, *London's Burning*. Science Oxford presents a storytelling experience of the Great Fire of London where the narrative is accompanied by live fire demonstrations. 7pm. £11, £8.50 concs. Feb 17, *I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again... Again!* 7.45pm. £16.50, £14.50 concs. Feb 18, *The MGM Story*. Musical revue. 7.45pm. £8. 01608 642350.

**Cooper School Performance Hall, Churchill Road, Bicester:** Feb 16-18, *Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk*. Family pantomime. 2.30pm and 7.30pm. £9 adult and £5 child. Box Offices are Launton Post Office and the Katherine House Hospice shop on Market Square, Bicester. 01869 277625.

**Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot:** Feb 19, *The Princess and the Frog*. Family and children's theatre. 2pm. £8 (£6). 01235 515144.

**Unicorn Theatre, Checker Walk, Abingdon:** Feb 16-17, *An Evening with Edgar Allen Poe*. Abingdon Drama Club Juniors. 7pm. £7. tickets@unicorntboxoffice.org.uk

CakeSport

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Injury-time goal stuns Puritans

Biggleswade strike late to dent Banbury play-off bid

A GOAL in the second minute of stoppage time condemned Banbury United to a 2-1 defeat at Biggleswade Town.

With the Puritans looking like picking up a point in their quest for the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division play-offs, a cross from the right by Ryan Hoenes saw Robbie Parker head in from six yards to earn Biggleswade all three points.

The hosts started strongly, Craig Daniel shooting wide, before Banbury keeper Jack Harding denied Russell Short with a low save.

They went ahead in the 32nd minute, when a corner led to a scramble and Gavin Hoyte knocked the ball home.

Banbury rallied, with Ricky

Johnson firing wide, before Andy Gunn miskicked when clear.

However, three minutes before half-time, they were level when Marvin Martin's free-kick was only cleared as far as Jack Self, whose 15-yard shot took a deflection and found the net.

Banbury had the better of the second half, with the best chance falling to Conor McDonagh, whose shot was saved by keeper Ian Brown.

But the Puritans fell to a sucker punch right at the end.

**Banbury Utd:** Harding, Gunn, Bradbury, Nash, Carnell, Self, White, McDonagh (Bell 74), Johnson, McEachran (Humphreys 82), Martin (Odihambo 90).  
Subs: not used; Browne, Smith.  
**Attendance:** 154.

	EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE									
	Premier Division									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Chippenham	34	19	11	4	64	26	68			
Merthyr Tn	32	20	7	5	55	27	67			
Leamington	32	19	8	5	55	23	65			
Slough Tn	32	20	4	8	62	37	64			
Banbury Utd	34	17	6	11	51	30	57			
Frome Tn	33	15	10	8	61	48	55			
Chesham Utd	30	15	7	8	53	33	52			
Kettering Tn	33	15	7	11	61	45	52			
Biggleswade	33	14	10	9	58	44	52			
St. Ives Tn	34	12	9	13	41	55	45			
Weymouth	33	11	11	11	56	42	44			
Redditch Utd	35	12	7	16	43	59	43			
King's Lynn Tn	33	9	15	9	47	51	42			
Dunstable Tn	31	13	3	15	33	37	42			
Basingstoke Tn	33	12	5	16	40	53	41			
Stratford Tn	33	7	14	12	46	52	35			
Kings Langley	34	8	9	17	45	58	33			
Dorchester Tn	33	8	8	17	39	61	32			
St. Neots Tn	32	8	4	20	43	77	28			
Cirencester Tn	34	7	7	20	39	75	28			
Hayes & Yeading	31	6	9	16	30	55	27			
Cambridge City	33	6	8	19	34	58	26			
Cinderford Tn	30	4	2	24	30	73	14			



BEATEN: Banbury goalkeeper Jack Harding could not keep out a stoppage-time winner

Bulls are hit by heavy loss at Old Pats

RUGBY UNION

BANBURY suffered a 41-7 defeat at leaders Old Patesians in South West 1 East on Saturday.

The results leaves the Bulls sixth in the table and is a third successive loss for the north Oxfordshire side.

Centre Matt Goode's converted try had given Banbury hope at 12-7 down, but Old Patesians proved too strong.

The home side went on to cross on a further five occasions to secure victory.

Banbury bid to bounce back on Saturday, when they host local rivals Oxford Harlequins at Bodicote Park.

Head coach James Kerr's side will hope to avenge a 19-13 defeat at Marston Ferry Road back in October.

Meanwhile, Banbury's third team, the Wanderers, beat Witney 4th 40-5 at home in Berks, Bucks & Oxon Division 4 North.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

There is an air of urgency in your chart which could see you rushing work which would be better approached with tact. Don't let others force your hand, but decide for yourself what and who should be a priority in the coming seven days. The Sun brings out your need for security and you find yourself calling up those you miss. Ring now so we can talk about those mixed emotions.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Try not to let jealousy stand in the way of what was otherwise a very healthy relationship. This insecurity you are feeling has much to do with the way you have been reading too deeply into what others say and do. Working with fellow air signs Gemini, Libra and Aquarius promises you luck and should help you to get ahead of the competition. Ring now to reveal your true calling.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

There is a more confident feel to your chart which should see you feeling far more in control of where you are going and what you are doing with your life. Be nice to all new faces you meet in work as they are likely to hold far more power than you first think. Places link to a better home life which slowly seems to be taking shape. Give me a call to hear why you should listen to your dreams.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

I can see from the power Mercury is exerting over you, that you will find it impossible not to say the first thing that comes into your head. Try to resist though Gemini, as you could end up offending someone you've only just got back on track with. Fresh starts with younger faces however, are very well starred. Ring now to make the most of life and love.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Your attitude over the last three weeks has been unpredictable to say the least. From Tuesday though, Saturn and Mars join forces to help you see with clarity what has really been going on. You may even decide that you owe someone an apology. Slowing down in all new relationships is your recipe for success. Ring now so I can tell you who your perfect partner would be.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Try to show the power of perseverance Leo. It's what your sign was made for. News from far away brings out the need in you to plan a long distance trip. Don't rush your plans, as time really is on your side. More than you think my friend. A flirtation from the past brings a revelation your way which fills in many blanks. Ring now so I can give you a glimpse of what's to come.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

It's time to ask yourself if you want something or someone because you couldn't have them or because you really care for them. Over the course of the next seven days this question is answered and life starts to feel more balanced and harmonious. Jupiter helps you find a way to replace missing funds and not a moment too soon. Ring now. I want to talk about last weekend!

0906 585 4365

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You don't realise how strong you are and how much you've been through. I'm so very proud of you Scorpio and it would be worth your while taking a step back this week to recognise how very far you've come. Your ruling planet Mars could push you to ask for changes you don't really want within the family circle. Careful. Ring now to hear why it's wise to sleep on major decisions.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Happy times link to you finally admitting what and who can make you happy. For a long time you were living your life as others dictated and I can see that it really didn't make you happy. In recent days you've grown so much as a person and decisions you make in the next seven days will prove that you're finally on the road to success. Ring now to hear about the foreign shores that beckon.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

I know you haven't been feeling as strong as you would like, but you're back, bigger and stronger than ever. If you don't believe me then why not test the waters and see. Going more independent or taking more control of your business promises to be successful at this time, so don't be afraid to push full steam ahead. Ring me to hear why arguments are not worth having right now.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

There is a rather flippancy air to your chart which could see you pushing for changes you don't really want just to see if you can get them. Fun times link to new faces with impromptu offers who can help you feel like you again. A broken relationship is given the chance to be mended this weekend. Pay attention. Ring so I can show you how good life can be if you communicate this week.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

It would seem to those around you that you don't really care about the effect your words are having on your close ones. You and I know that's not true and that you do care very, very deeply. Fellow Pisces can help you to be more honest about how you are feeling. Unexpected visitors are about to prove to you how much you're cared for. Ring now so we can talk relationships.

0906 585 4371

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A spacious 4 bedroom family room situated in close proximity to Banbury town centre and train station. Entrance hall. Kitchen. 2 reception rooms. Utility. En-suite to bedroom 1. Family bathroom. Cloak room. Rear garden. Off road parking and garage situated to the rear of the property. SALE AGREED WITHIN ONE WEEK

**£245,000**



**SOLD STC**

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**£120,000**



**UNDER OFFER**

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A new to the market spacious two bedroom cottage situated in the heart of the village of North Newington. There is a separate kitchen; good size lounge with all original features. Upstairs there are two bedrooms and a family size bathroom. Parking is on road. The property also benefits from a picturesque garden. Situated with easy access for Banbury and Bloxham. Walking distance to the local primary school.

**£250,000**



**Let & Managed**

### Cricketers Fields

Martin & Co are pleased to present a selection of new two bedroom luxury apartments situated within walking distance to the train station and town centre. Available unfurnished with off road parking. Don't miss out on the chance to rent in a brand new development. Available for viewings from 27th May.

**£795.00**



**Let & Managed**

### flat 2 Dorita House

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this new to the market spacious one bedroom flat available within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises: entrance hall, living room, kitchen, bedroom and separate bathroom. It is unfurnished, neutrally decorated throughout. The property benefits from allocated parking. EPC Rating D

**£595.00**

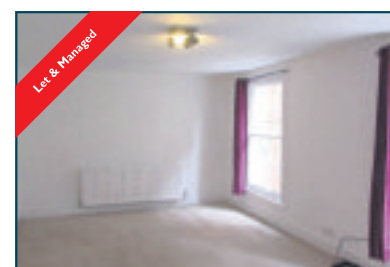


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### Verney Road

Martin & Co present a two bedroom spacious apartment situated within walking distance to the town centre & train station.

**£775.00**



**Let & Managed**

### Butchers Row

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom apartment in the town centre with allocated parking. The property comprises good size kitchen; living room; three bedrooms; bathroom with bath and shower. Available unfurnished. Conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. EPC Rating: C

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### 114 Broughton Road

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**£875.00**



**Let**

### Mollington Road

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**Let Agreed**

### flat 2, 41 Middleton Road

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**Offer Pending**

### 26 West Bar

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom mid terraced property conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises: kitchen; living room; bathroom; upstairs there are two bedrooms. The property also benefits from a patio area at the rear of the house.

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PETS

**3**  
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**4**  
BUSINESS

**5**  
ENTERTAINMENTS

**6**  
HOLIDAYS

**7**  
EDUCATION

**8**  
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NOTICES

**9**  
RECRUITMENT

**10**  
MOTORS

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Source: Continental Research 2016. 51% of respondents stated that they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy/sell local media (local newspapers, websites and magazines).



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To help you decide here are five signs that show

when it really is time for a change:

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2. You're stuck in a rut – Think of yourself as an X Factor wannabe. Your career should be a journey to bigger and better things, not a constant loop. Even if you're doing a job you

enjoy, you must also get a sense of pride and satisfaction from adding to your skill set. If you haven't developed or learned anything new for a while, it's time for a fresh challenge.

3. You don't get on with your boss – Unfortunately, many people don't leave their companies, they leave their boss. A bad relationship with a manager can really affect your day-to-day work and seep into the rest of your life. If you've tried and failed to fix the situation, your energy would be better spent looking for a new job.

4 It's a mismatch – Like

good relationships, the best jobs tap into our full potential and bring out the best in us. If there is no overlap between what we're good at and love doing and what our actual job involves on a daily basis, nobody is happy.

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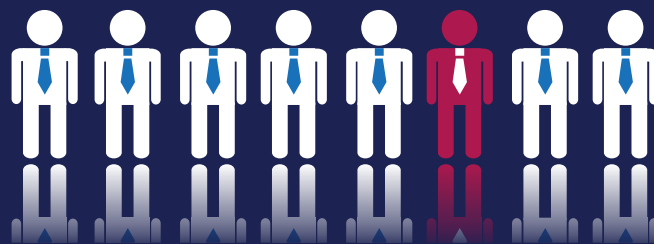
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